

New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund 2014 EOF Graduate Achievement Award Recipients

Each year the Educational Opportunity Fund Board of Directors and the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education invite campus programs to identify graduating EOF students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement during their college careers. Presented to EOF seniors who are expected to graduate at the end of the spring 2014 term or who graduated at the end of the summer or fall 2013 terms, the criteria for the specific award categories are as follows:

Distinguished Scholars: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.00 throughout their college career (**6** recipients);

Outstanding Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.50-3.99 (**380** recipients);

Academic Achievement: presented to seniors who have consistently maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.20-3.49 (**349** recipients); and

Outstanding Achievement: each participating campus EOF program can nominate one senior who best exemplifies the spirit and intent of the Educational Opportunity Fund program. There is no grade point average requirement for this award and seniors can receive this award as well as an award in one of the other three categories (**40** recipients).

A grand total of **767** students have been nominated for a total of **775** awards. **8** students are receiving two awards.

**Names listed reflect only nominees who have signed a release form, allowing NJHE/EOF to publish their information. Institutions may have nominated additional students not listed here but included in their count.*

Atlantic Cape Community College

***6 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Reyna Dabney

Lorna Monk

Academic Achievement Award

Kevin Curley

Valerie Echevarria

Bre'Ana Figaro

Jennifer Testa

Bergen Community College

***24 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Lila Divine

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Anna Bednarczyk

Jesu Mills

Patrycja Tkacz

Jenna Farra

Angella Mosca

Ambar Jaramillo

Dana Marie Spagnoli

Academic Achievement Award

Hanan Abdul Wahid

Michelle C. Abril

Jonathan Garcia Ortiz

Nina Lengua

Outstanding Achievement Award

Saman Javed

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight
Teresa Alston

Teresa Alston is a non-traditional student and busy mother from Englewood. While attending Bergen Community College, Teresa faced many unanticipated adversities. First, Teresa found out that she had breast cancer and began chemotherapy treatment. Later, she faced total knee replacement surgery after which she navigated campus using a walker. These were challenges for even a busy, diligent student like herself. She was undaunted by it all and will graduate at the end of this academic year with a GPA of 2.95. She is looking forward to attending Fairleigh Dickinson University - Teaneck campus to pursue a career in nursing. Teresa gives praise to the EOF's staff's unending commitment to the students they serve. The staff persistently applies their motivational skills and attention to every student with the end goal of helping each achieve their personal best. She credits the program with helping her through not only her academic challenges but also many personal issues that might have otherwise side-tracked her original career focus when she started college.

Bloomfield College

***4 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Brunette Michel

Academic Achievement Award

Liliana Cayamcela

Petrina Thomas

Outstanding Achievement Award

Kamille Bynum

Brookdale Community College

***32 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Denise Accardi

Michael Cebula

Ana Idrovo

Samantha Caputo-O'Gara

Tyler Gilson

Richard Joffe

Raphael Kaymakcian
Alyssa Kelly
Umme Leila
Justin Melendez

Kimiko Nakatsuji
Yan Pan
Amanda Priore
Michelle Russomano

Taranjeet Sandhu
Lee Mei Tsoi
Catherine Vollmuth

Academic Achievement Award

Venus Castrillon
Kelly Dender
Cleldison Desousa
Evan Eastmond
Dawnlyn Everett

Heather Geiger
Alyssa Mattei
Karen Melendez
Emily Melendez
Julia Michael

Brittany Sicknick
Cody Sloboda
Kayla Spiegeland
Janae Walker-Stovall
Rebecca Winston

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Dawnlyn Everett

Dawnlyn Everett is a single mother with three children and among the first generation in her family to attend college. While raising her children, Dawnlyn earned a GED at the age of 22. She returned to school at the age of 49 to earn an associate's degree in Human Services with a concentration in Addiction Studies at Brookdale Community College. During her last semester before graduation, Dawnlyn was diagnosed with Stage 3 cancer. Her determination to battle the illness, as well as stay on track to earn her degree, is a testament to her strong will. Dawnlyn has been an inspiration to all through her example of facing life's challenges head-on and finding the courage and strength not to lose sight of her goals but persevere.

Burlington County College

***12 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Travita Bromiley
Lorena Caicedo
Adyaina Camiso

LaToya Davis Parker
Miatta Jeh
Sharoona Khan

Paige McNeil

Academic Achievement Award

Nana Amponsah
Jasmarie Arce
Anthony Caruso
Jana Clark
Dior Hinton

Outstanding Achievement Award

Jasmarie Arce

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Paige McNeil

Paige McNeil was raised in both Mt. Laurel, New Jersey and Charlotte, North Carolina. She is the mother of one child and graduated from Lenape High School in 2012. That summer, Paige entered Burlington County College and joined the EOF program. Paige is a Criminal Justice major and involved in the Criminal Justice and Paralegal College Organization. On the Dean's List for both the spring and fall semesters of 2013, she was inducted into both the Chi Alpha Epsilon and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Societies with a 3.6 grade point average. Paige is graduating with an associate's degree in Criminal Justice and intends to obtain a bachelor's degree in the same field. Her ultimate plan is to continue in pursuit of a Juris Doctorate with the goal of becoming a private defense attorney.

<i>Caldwell College</i>

***5 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Nasreen Khalaifeh

Academic Achievement Award

Ketty Fernandez

Marqueeta Mitchell

Ashley Santiago

Thomas Worgul

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ashley Santiago

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ashley Santiago

Ashley Santiago is a classic example of a student who blossomed academically while also developing leadership skills as an active member in student organizations at Caldwell College. After graduating from Camden Academy Charter High School, Ashley embraced the opportunity to start a new beginning. Throughout her college career, she has been the recipient of several

academic awards including Dean's List acknowledgments. Other notable achievements include being selected as the president of the EOF Club and as president of the Residence Hall Council. Ashley has never been afraid of hard work. She continued to manage full-time employment and to volunteer with guiding other students while also taking classes. On May 18, 2014, Ms. Santiago will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources. Ashley exemplifies the best qualities of motivational leadership. We are honored to have her as part of the Caldwell College EOF family.

Camden County College

***7 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Charde Coleman

Tara Gleason

Terrell Jackson

Michelle River

Academic Achievement Award

Mary Gilbert

Ernesto Ramos

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ernest Lindsay

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ernest Lindsay

In 1968 at the age of 9, Ernest Lindsay moved to Camden where his father relocated the family for employment reasons. Ernest dropped out of high school when his father passed away, with the intention of working to support the family in his dad's place. For many years he struggled, socializing with the wrong crowd, becoming heavily involved in drugs and eventually losing the family he had intended to support. On several occasions Ernest had run-ins with the justice system and worked with different probation officers. By June of 2009, he entered a drug treatment program and began to turn his life around.

In the past four years, Ernest has acquired many accomplishments. After obtaining a GED, he enrolled at Camden County College, earning Dean's List status twice. He will graduate this May

with an associate's degree and is transferring to Rutgers University - School of Social Work to complete a bachelor's degree. Now in his own apartment, he has restored ties with his family and recently married. He volunteers with the Camden County College GED Program and is enrolled in an internship program with Our Father's House in Gloucester. He is also a volunteer at New Visions Day Shelter and is considering opening a homeless shelter for men at some time in the future.

Centenary College

***3 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Shawna Bryan
Precious Shider
Saquan Williams

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Saquan Williams

Saquan Williams is a native of Hoboken and graduate of Hoboken High School. He entered Centenary College in the fall of 2010. Saquan's mantra has been "*family, community and craft*" and he has focused on that through his wonderful four year college voyage. He has blessed the Centenary Stage Company with his talent for four years and reached plateaus most other Centenary's students have never imagined. He has performed in children's theater both in his local community and on campus. His aspiration is to inspire others using his talents and he enjoys performing as if his life were dependent on it. Saquan has touched other lives while participating in the Disney College Program. He took on the life of characters: Winnie the Pooh, Chip (from Chip and Dale), and a variety of other characters. He is currently waiting to hear back from the national tour of "Elf the Musical" for an audition. Saquan has accomplished his theater arts goals while earning membership in Chi Alpha Epsilon and maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or better.

The College of New Jersey

***24 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Vanessa Galindo
Hajar Lakhouri
Karen Martinez

Leonory Rodriguez
Aashiki Shah
Nicole Thompson

Seiichi Villalona

Academic Achievement Award

Teresa Couto
Tanyia Green

Marissa Jackson
Crystal Johnson

Jenella Morris
Zulencia Rosario

Outstanding Achievement Award

Catherine Inoa

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Seiichi Villalona

Seiichi Villalona was born in the Dominican Republic but relocated to Paterson where he grew up. He attended Passaic County Technical Institute in Wayne. While there, Seiichi developed his academic, professional and personal competencies and began to look at college as his next step. After being admitted to the College of New Jersey, he found the transition to college initially difficult, especially the challenge presented by the academically rigorous biology program. Seiichi credits the EOF program with helping him develop the tools and skillsets to perform well academically. Additionally, the EOF program provided a sense of home and guidance about becoming a well-rounded student.

Seiichi has completed two undergraduate degrees in biology and cultural anthropology and was named to the Dean's List for seven semesters. He participated in faculty sponsored medical anthropology research projects in his freshman year and collaborated in research projects every subsequent year throughout his academic career. Seiichi was recognized as the 2012 Outstanding Student in Anthropology at TCNJ for his contributions to departmental research projects. He interned at Rutgers University - New Jersey Medical School for three summers. His other undergraduate accolades include being selected as a student representative of the All-College Standards Board, serving as a campus Community Advisor and College Ambassador, and being elected president of Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc.- Gamma Chapter.

He plans to continue his education and contribute to a new body of urban medical anthropology research on Latin American populations. After graduation, he plans to obtain more field experience in a laboratory setting and looks forward to entering a medical/graduate program.

<i>The College of Saint Elizabeth</i>
--

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Marleny Escano
Natacha Eustache
Marie Exume

Academic Achievement Award

Kerdishia Artis	Luz Campoverde	Melissa Charles
Jada Braime-Butler	Geovanna Castaneda	Tkeyah Johnson

<i>County College of Morris</i>
--

***4 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Cristian Aroca

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Michael Cardoza
Jaslyn Rodriguez

Outstanding Achievement Award

Johanny Toro

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Cristian Aroca

Cristian Aroca is a graduate of Dover High School and enrolled in the County College of Morris in fall of 2011. After the death of his father, Cristian (an elementary school child) immigrated to the United States from Colombia. He painted his first landscape at the age of five and cherishes childhood memories of his “small, perfect town” of Tunia in his beloved Colombia. Since childhood, he has dreamed of putting his creative abilities to use by sharing his love of art with others. Cristian saw art as a means to inspire young minds to think creatively through artistic self-expression. His interest in art continued to develop during high school. In time, he decided to remain in the U.S. and pursue a degree in Art Education at County College of Morris.

While at CCM, Cristian was an active member of the EOF program and the EOF Alliance while maintaining a GPA of 4.0 throughout his six semesters. He has participated in community

service and EOF workshops, and has been a consistent presence in the EOF office. Cristian has made the honor roll at CCM each semester, has been inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, and received EOF academic achievement awards every semester. As a member of the EOF Alliance club, he created the club's new logo.

CCM professors have described Cristian's art as "fantastic, wonderful, excellent, and creative" and Cristian as "respectful, eager to learn, and a pleasure to have in class." Cristian's artwork has been on display at the college and in local museums.

Cumberland County College

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Elaine Erlenbach

Leia Manzo

Kassandra Rodriguez

Ca'marrah Hudson

Shannondoah Moler

Leticia Santiago-Boston

Academic Achievement Award

Eileen Acevedo

Anita Garcia

Joelle Pavlin

Ashley Ramos

Krysta Tilghman

Outstanding Achievement Award

Leia Manzo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Leia Manzo

Leia Manzo will graduate from Cumberland County College (CCC) with a 3.9 grade point average. She has earned an associate's degree in biomedical science. Leia will transfer to Rowan University in the fall of 2014 to pursue her bachelor's degree in Biochemistry and then plans to attend Jefferson University's Pharmacy program. Leia is also employed full-time as a cocktail waitress at an Atlantic City casino and states, "I am trying to trade in the tray for a lab coat."

Leia is a mother of a teenage son and daughter. She has been a great role model for her children as her son has already applied to the 2014 EOF Summer Institute. Leia started her studies at CCC

during the summer of 2010 as a participant in the EOF Summer Institute. This experience was her first time back in a classroom as a student in nearly 20 years. Leia has thrived academically and personally during her college career. She received the 2012 – 2013 Soroptimist Scholarship Award as well as other academic recognitions.

Drew University

***4 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Carlumenis Almanzar

Khemani Gibson

Nathania Reyes

Academic Achievement Award

Shauntia Harrison

Outstanding Achievement Award

Khemani Gibson

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Khemani Gibson

Khemani Gibson, a graduate of Orange High School, will receive his bachelor's degree from Drew University with honors. He has a triple major in History, Pan-African Studies, and Spanish with a cumulative grade point average of 3.890. He has been recognized on numerous occasions for his outstanding academic achievement. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, Epsilon Omega Psi Honor Society and Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society. Khemani is very active on and off campus. He served as co-chair of KUUMBA - the Pan-African Student Organization, KUUMBA Shadow Board Advisory Council, and as a peer counselor/tutor in the EOS Summer Academic Enrichment Program. He has an affinity for helping other fellow EOS students. He served as a co-facilitator in the EOS men's group and has volunteered endless hours tutoring first year students in English, Writing, Spanish, and History. Khemani is currently volunteering his time to work in a middle school in the Orange School District to develop a book on the history of Orange for 3rd grade students. After graduation, Khemani will pursue a Ph.D. degree from New York University studying the History of the African Diaspora. Khemani is a true testament of what hard work, commitment and determination can achieve.

Essex County College

***51 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Samir Abdo	Colleen Holland	Vanessa Rohoman
Maria Camacho	Cajetan Ibeneme	Stephanie Sainterme
Mariuxi Chimbo	Elie Jean	Adara L. Salomon
Victoria E. Cooper	Mateo Lopez	Zohrah Shareh
Jeffrey Cooper	Binu J. Maliel	Keiko Smith Sr.
Yaa Frempong	Laribel Montilla	Jade-Morgan Stone
Rosa D. Goizueta	Carmen Munoz Pena	Rosa R. Velastegui
Christopher Halleran	Jenny Ojeola	Lashkeerah Walker
Mujahid Henry	Elizabeth M. Ramirez	Tyrone Wheeler

Academic Achievement Award

Patricia Amamoo	Tamora Kirby	Alfredo Salgado
Najeya Banks	Shakira Lawson	Yesenia Sanchez
Jose Boisrond	Lorenzo Lee-Copeland	Michelle Tello
Anner Campbell	Omar Nunez	Carmela Torres
Yeni V. Canela	Levita Pickett	Dennys Vicuna
Raisi R. Cardova-Blanco	Geuel Ramirez	Gladys Yanqui
Joseph Eggert	Gloria Regalado	
Christopher Hercules	Alaysia Saint Furcy	

Outstanding Achievement Award

Thomas Carswell

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Thomas Carswell

Thomas Carswell is from Newark where he attended and graduated from the city's Central High School. He is a business administration major and will graduate with an Associate in Science degree in May of 2014. Thomas has an outgoing personality and is well liked at Essex County College. As a legally blind person, he has successfully overcome many challenges and obstacles in his life and is an inspiration to other students. While pursuing his studies, he has also been engaged in several student activities on campus including the EOF Club, the Business Club, the Student Support Services Club, and the Student Government Association (SGA). Thomas has

been accepted to continue his education at Montclair State University where he will begin his bachelor's degree in the fall of 2014.

Fairleigh Dickinson University
College at Florham

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Onasis Espinal

Vanessa Jules

Aja Palmer

Academic Achievement Award

Courtney Anderson-

Harvey

Jennifer Gonzalez

Sheyla Gonzalez

Danielle Manno

Angel Menendez

Fabiola Pierre

Outstanding Achievement Award

Claudia Barreto

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Claudia Barreto

Claudia Barreto will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in May 2014. She will graduate with a double major in Sociology and Spanish. Claudia is involved in a number of activities both on and off campus. She currently serves as president of the United Nations Club. She also works as a Spanish tutor for the EOF program as well as a lab assistant for Computing Services on campus. Claudia has completed an internship with a social service agency providing care, support, companionship and counseling for the elderly and handicapped adults who require supervision. She is a hardworking student who goes above and beyond. Claudia has traveled to Spain and Latin America to expand her knowledge culturally. She is committed to making a positive impact and is currently working on research with the Sociology department on "children soldiers." After graduation, Claudia plans to become a preschool teacher.

Fairleigh Dickinson University

Metropolitan Campus

***10 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Naicy Baltre
Jenson Colonia

Tiffany Cuello
Katherine Gonzalez

Frances Lawrence
Ester Paulino

Academic Achievement Award

Melissa Narine
Kelvin Preciado
Bria Troutman
Christopher Williams

Outstanding Achievement Award

Christopher Williams

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Christopher Williams

Christopher Williams of Irvington graduated from St. Benedict's Preparatory High School in 2010 and enrolled at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He has been the recipient of the Mertz Scholarship since the start of his college career, and has also been on the Dean's List and Honors list. He will be inducted into Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society in April 2014. With a major in Communications and a minor in Speech, Chris's goal is to become a sports broadcaster with ESPN.

In 2010, Chris began volunteering with the Relay for Life committee at FDU, where he served as captain for the EOF Relay Team. This position required extensive coordination and time management, all of which Chris balanced successfully. The following year he took on an additional role and became chairperson of the 2014 Relay for Life Committee. Chris has also volunteered many hours throughout his college career with EOF sponsored activities. As an EOF Ambassador, he served as a representative for several United Nations Pathway Lecture Series, on-campus recruitment efforts, and student leadership opportunities. Chris was selected to serve as a peer counselor/resident assistant for the 2013 EOF summer program.

He is the prime example of a student who genuinely appreciates the assistance and support the EOF program provided him and gratefully gives back to the program at every opportunity presented.

Felician College

***5 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Lawrence Roberts

Dia R. Sanders

Academic Achievement Award

Esther Adepoju

Virginia V. Isip

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Dia R. Sanders

Dia R. Sanders is a graduating senior from Felician College, with a double major in Nursing and Global Peace and Justice Studies. Ms. Sanders is an academic tutor, a member of the college's Student Affairs Committee, and has served as the Resolutions Director from 2012-2013 for the New Jersey State Nurses Association of which she remains an active member. Prior to attending Felician, Ms. Sanders graduated from Middlesex County College with an associate's degree in Social and Rehabilitation Services and worked on campus there as a peer transfer advisor and student orientation leader. Ms. Sanders has engaged in many activities including attending Rutgers' Center for American Women and Politics NEW® Leadership Institute and presenting the topic titled "Women, Sanitation and Water" at the United Nations as part of the internationally celebrated World Water Day. Ms. Sanders is originally from Somerset, New Jersey, and graduated from Franklin Township High School. In the future, she will pursue career plans to work as an International Family Health Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator.

Georgian Court University

***2 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Shimriya Richard

Outstanding Achievement Award

Carol Purdie

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Carol Purdie

Carol Purdie graduated from Henry Snyder High School in Jersey City and will obtain her bachelor's degree with a major in Social Work from Georgian Court University in May of 2014. Carol has undergone surgeries and many other hardships while pursuing her undergraduate degree. However, through it all she still generously volunteered her services to the Living Learning Community and has volunteered and worked as an EOF office student assistant, peer counselor, and residential assistant for the summer residential program for the past four years. She was a member of GCU Women in Leadership Development (2009 – 2010) and received the GCU/EOF Academic Achievement Awards (2008 – present). Carol plans to attend graduate school in the near future.

Gloucester County College

***17 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Kevin A. Metzger

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Michelle L. Duerstock

Maria C. Kustera

Kevin Mejia

Lauren T. Mickle

Jacquelyn R. Thomasson

Academic Achievement Award

Chloe Helms

Angela L. Perez

Outstanding Achievement Award

Travis J. Custis

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Travis J. Custis

Travis J. Custis is from Paulsboro and graduated from Paulsboro High School in 2011. Travis exhibited an interest in automotive mechanics from an early age and decided to attend Gloucester County College to earn a degree in Automotive Technology. He was an active participant in the EOF Program's Summer Institute, where he established himself as an engaged and enthusiastic student. He was granted admission to the highly selective Ford Assets Automotive Program in the fall of 2012. Through the program he obtained a co-op work experience with the Pacifico Ford dealership in Philadelphia. Travis enjoys learning about new car technology and solving complex mechanical issues. Travis's short-term goal is to gain more experience with automotive technology and entrepreneurship. His long-term goal is to establish himself as a small business owner and open his own automotive repair shop.

Hudson County Community College

***18 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Dorcas Allen
Danielle Grasso
Melissa Holman

Gisbell Martinez
Ria S. Nathan
Aja Pacheco

Meghan E. Regodon
Gabriele Rosado
Jatna Suazo

Academic Achievement Award

Lesley Acevedo
Aleshia Black
Maryam Fathy
Adonis Rosario

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ramonita Rivera

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ria S. Nathan

Ria S. Nathan relocated in the United States from Trinidad in 2003. After moving to Jersey City from Brooklyn in 2005, she focused on continuing her education. Pursuing personal growth has always played a significant role in her decisions and she knew that being in the United States would offer greater opportunities to further her education. Education was especially important because she not only wanted to better her life, but also offer better prospects to her children. In 2008, she earned her high school diploma at Hudson County School of Technology and eventually enrolled at Hudson County Community College in the fall of 2011. During her time

at HCCC, she was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society in spring 2013 and in the fall of 2013 she became a Dean's List honoree and also served as a mentor for the EOF program. Ria completed her Liberal Arts degree at HCCC at the end of fall of 2013. She has been accepted at New Jersey City University and will pursue a bachelor's degree in Health Science. She hopes to continue her education toward a master's degree and possibly even a Doctorate in Psychology.

Kean University

***52 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Alyssa Collier

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Jahaira Abreu	Stacey Dadich	Rebecca Rodriguez
Lesly Almanzar	Trudi-Ann Lawrence	Hector Santiago
Marth Badua	Katherine Marantz	Priya Shah
Michael Cano	Benjamin Novoa	Sabrina Velasquez
Manuel Carro	Fatima Pereira	Jennifer Vilfranche-
Celeste Cott	Maritza Rivera	Dieujuste

Academic Achievement Award

Hakema Batemon	Nadia Garzon	Joseph Minatee
Andrea Bermeo-Villalva	Sean Guerrier	Amanda Paraboo
Stephanie Burbano	Sherond Jacobs	Maria Peguero
Orcania Burgos-Martinez	Sadiqua Johnson	Paola Sandoval-Torres
Cierrah Butler	Walkiria Leonardo	Jannet Tineo
Jennifer Delgado	Christal McDonald	Roselena Twyne
Talia Dixon	Sousana McKenzie	
Jemima Dominique	Juan Mendieta	

Outstanding Achievement Award

Blanca Teran

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sabrina Velasquez

Sabrina Velasquez will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree in May 2014. A psychology major, Sabrina has earned a GPA of 3.686. Sabrina is a member of the Epsilon Epsilon Omega

Honor Society and has been placed on the Dean's List for seven semesters. She was named to the Exceptional Educational Opportunities Program's Honor's List for each of the seven semesters she attended Kean University. A diligent and hardworking student, Sabrina was also named to the EEO Program's 4.0 Club for earning a solid 4.0 GPA with a minimum of 12 credits for the spring 2012 and fall 2012 semesters. She served as the secretary for the New Freshmen Residence Hall Council during the 2013-2014 academic year. While vigorously studying, Sabrina has also cared for her mother and father, who are both hearing impaired. Her knowledge of Sign Language has enabled her to serve students on campus who also have hearing deficiencies. She made every effort to earn the high grades, despite undergoing severe financial constraints and personal family difficulties.

Mercer County Community College

***7 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Andrew Devlin
Stephanie Flack
Jasmine Villishanay

Academic Achievement Award

Rasheeda D. Alan
Issac Possible
Arifa Yousafzai

Outstanding Achievement Award

Chelsea Autridge

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Rasheeda D. Alan

Rasheeda D. Alan is a 2011 Trenton Central High School graduate who has earned an Associate in Science degree in Business Administration at Mercer County Community College with a CUM GPA of 3.30. She also earned Dean's List honors for four semesters at the college. Rasheeda has transferred to Rutgers University – Newark, where she is majoring in Supply Chain Management.

Rasheeda was also very active in student life organizations at Mercer. She served her fellow classmates as a tutor and mentor and was an active member of Mercer's PASS Club (EOF student organization) and the Go Green Club (environmental protection student organization). Rasheeda is caring, sincere and dedicated to her peers.

Middlesex County College

***7 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Potzu S. Chang
Caroline Gadalla

Academic Achievement Award

Elaina Galindo
Yesenia Olmedo

Outstanding Achievement Award

Cornesha LaBoo

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Potzu S. Chang

Ms. Chang immigrated to the United States from Taiwan with her mother. As a Middlesex County resident, she attended East Brunswick High School. Potzu chose to attend Middlesex County College because of the cost, proximity to home and excellent Nursing program. As a teenager, Potzu was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. The sincerity of the nurses who cared for her led to her decision to pursue Nursing as a profession. Potzu excelled during her time at MCC. She earned an academic Letter of Commendation and Dean's List honors twice, was awarded a total of 4 scholarships and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Upon graduation she will take the NCLEX exam and transfer to a 4 year institution to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Potzu's goal is to become a certified Diabetic Educator and work with individuals of all ages in order to convey the same support and sincerity she received.

Monmouth University

***19 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Megan Conrad
Zachary Crawford
Christina Dock
Lisangi Fernandez

Cassandra Figueroa
Marilynn Garcia
Amanda Gruber
Lixanya Lucas

Belinda Rao
Michael Rosas
Klaudia Szabat
Jasmine Walker

Academic Achievement Award

Jessica Curbelo
Bryan Duarte

Aubrey Loglisci
Walter Ramos

Lawren Rohling
Maria Tsampounieri

Outstanding Achievement Award

Tilah Young

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight***Tilah Young***

Tilah Young is graduating from Monmouth University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Marketing in May of 2014. Although a Barnegat native, Tilah found herself at Monmouth University due to an administrative mistake made by another university. This error became Monmouth's advantage. Tilah was the last student interviewed and 40th student chosen for the 2010 EOF pre-freshman summer program. Tilah learned the importance of academic dedication from her Barnegat High School teachers. By applying that advice to her study habits she quickly excelled in her classes and was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society.

Tilah has a strong work ethic and developed an impressive resume at Monmouth University. She was chosen at the end of her freshman year to be a Peer Counselor and then again for a second consecutive summer. Her Peer Counselor position trained her to be a successful Resident Assistant for Monmouth University. Serving under two different university presidents, she worked for the majority of her undergraduate career as an Office Assistant to the president of Monmouth University.

Tilah is a strong young woman and exhibits her strength and agility as a member of the Monmouth University Track & Field Team. Her coaches named her captain of the track and field team, an honor held by few. Not only did she break the Monmouth University Weight Throw school record, Tilah also broke the MAAC Conference Record for Weight Throw and was recently nominated for the Women in Sports Athlete of the Year Award. Tilah's teammates, peers, employers and professors agree that she is fearless and committed to being the best that she can be, no matter the circumstance. Look for her in the field of real estate or marketing, where she will be exercising her entrepreneurial interests.

Montclair State University

***23 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Daniela Duarte

Danuta Lopata

Andrea Alexandria

Daisy Fabian

Ebony J. Potts

Rodriguez

Halimatou Kaba

Guadalupe Rodriguez

Johanna Sayago

Academic Achievement Award

Kadijah Awad

Brianna Essence McNeil

Michael Restrepo

Anna Azcona

Edimary Morales

Nicol Valentina Rivera

Leslie Cruel

Kimberly Nunez

Mekhail Sarofiem

Lorena Hincapie

Donna Paredes

Samirah Khalifeh

Samantha Neto Parreiral

Montclair State University Health Careers Program

***2 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Yvelande Cajuste

Academic Achievement Award

Judith Jeanty

Outstanding Achievement Award

Yvelande Cajuste

New Jersey City University

***23 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Jatna Baldera
Robert Bell
Rudinet Brito
Simone Estefanos

Gabriela Guzman
Roberto Marrero
Julisa Mugica
Lekendrick Shaw

Danielle Sims
Claudia Vargas
Gisela F. Vivanco-Rosales

Academic Achievement Award

Rasha Abdeldaym
Siomara Baez Santana
Tammy Baisden
Karina Carmona

Cristina Diaz
Desiree Dorsey
Dawn Germann
Caitlin Rosario

Tameka Simon
Debbie Taylor
Remonda Yacoub

Outstanding Achievement Award

Samantha Estrada

<p><i>New Jersey Institute of Technology</i></p>

***4 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Dhruv Lad

Academic Achievement Award

Lilyan Estafanous
Shabiha Yasmin

Outstanding Achievement Award

Vanessa Hernandez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Dhruv Lad

Dhruv Lad is a resident of Old Bridge and graduate of Old Bridge High School. He entered the New Jersey Institute of Technology in the fall of 2010. Dhruv will receive a Bachelor of Science degree on May 20, 2014. A chemical engineering major, he has earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.64. Dhruv is a member of the Omega Chi Epsilon Chemical Engineering Honor Society, the Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE). He was awarded the Anna and John Spatz Memorial Endowed Scholarship in 2012 and 2013. Dhruv was named to the Dean's List consistently throughout his tenure at NJIT. After graduation, he plans to pursue a master's degree in chemical engineering at NJIT.

Ocean County College

***7 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Mariia Buryk
Michael Gates
Jaalah Hagler
Nicola Urbano
Dominika Wawrzonek

Academic Achievement Award

Ausirys Alviz

Outstanding Achievement Award

Paula Becerra

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Paula Becerra

Paula Becerra was born and raised in Medellin, Columbia and immigrated to the United States with a dream in her heart and spirit to make a name for herself, and the courage to search for a life free of fear. In the spring of 2011, Paula commenced her first semester at Ocean County College and quickly became involved on campus. In the last several years, Paula not only started college, but also mastered English, became a member of multiple honor societies, and is in her last semester to complete her associate's degree, G.E in Business. Paula works in New York City on the weekends while maintaining a full-time class schedule. This year she also joined the work study program. Paula has maintained a grade point average of 3.0 or better as she charges forward to meet the opportunities this great nation has to offer.

During her freshman year, Paula was the vice president of the Hispanic Club and this academic year she became the club's treasurer. In 2011 and 2012, she was part of a team that annually reads to children in Spanish during the Hispanic Heritage Month celebration. Paula also offered inspirational remarks at the 2012 Educational Opportunity Fund Annual Graduate and Awards Recognition banquet. She is a member of Phi Beta Lambda as well as the Chi Alpha Epsilon academic honor societies. In 2013, Paula was on the OCC President's Honors List. She has been accepted to Montclair State University's Business Administration program and will concentrate in the area of International Business. Paula has a different future than many of her

compadres, yet she does not forget them or Columbia. Memories spur her forward and motivate her dreams of a career in business. Paula is bright, determined and engaged in the process of life as well as her academic endeavors. Strength of will and a little Colombian coffee fuel her schedule. Paula is on the move.

Passaic County Community College

***14 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Daimi Delgado
Andrea Gates
Bayan Jamal-Kanouni
Yanely Maldonado
Tasrin Shani

Academic Achievement Award

Najwa J. Basuf	Darlene Gonzalez	Rosario Reveron
David Cepin	Natasha McCutchen	Tremayne Rodgers
Noah Freeman	Karla Morrobel	

Outstanding Achievement Award

Sarrie Bailey

Ramapo College of New Jersey

***19 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Macrae Francis
Rachel O'Brien
Cadea Robinson

Academic Achievement Award

Jennifer Alfonso	Cynthia Florencio	Rafael Quinones
Claude Barnes	Kelsey Kozak	Yisel Vasquez
Kathia Cintron	Chelsea Lewis	Esther Wasserman-Plaza

Raritan Valley Community College

***2 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Sisheng Zhang

Outstanding Achievement Award

Kevin Rico

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Sisheng Zhang

Sisheng Zhang graduated from Bridgewater High School in June of 2012. A native of China, Sisheng moved to Bridgewater when he was 3 years old. He describes himself as a shy, introverted child throughout elementary and high school. Difficulty with speech kept him from getting involved in activities at school. He had always set his sights on attending a 4 year college, but in his senior year of high school it became apparent that attending a community college was going to be his best overall option. Since making that decision Sisheng has achieved more than he thought possible. He has overcome many of his challenges and emerged as a great leader on campus. During his time at RVCC he achieved the Dean's List in both 2012 and 2014. He was inducted into the RVCC Honors College and Phi Theta Kappa and was a recipient of the Galileo Scholarship Award. Sisheng has been an EOF peer mentor and was hired as a student worker for the MIS department. In May 2014, Sisheng will earn his Associate of Science degree in Computer Science. He has applied to Rutgers University to continue on for a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

***10 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Michelle Batista

Umang Patel

Keyanah D. West

Meghan McGovern

Raul Polanco

Brian Nguyen

Timothy Simko

Academic Achievement Award

Sindy Bonilla

Sally Villa

Wesley Wu

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Raul Polanco

Raul Polanco graduated from Atlantic City High School before attending Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. He completed the vigorous EOF pre-freshman summer program in 2009. Part of the program requires the students to meet each morning at 5:30 a.m. for exercises. Raul was the group's biggest cheerleader, encouraging all to do their best. While this may not appear to be a big achievement, Raul did this while in a wheelchair – disabled following an accident. He never asked for special treatment and insisted that everyone treat him like any other EOF student.

Raul took the spring semester off in 2012 to work for his uncle in the accounting field in their native country of the Dominican Republic. He has maintained Dean's List status five out of eight semesters while at Stockton. He is known for the big smile on his face when he greets others in passing. He is truly an inspiration for all of his EOF classmates.

<i>Rider University</i>

***12 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Lorelei Colbert

Matthew Mayer

Academic Achievement Award

Bridget Guardia

Remzy Jamal

Christopher Ventura Reyes

Matthew Williams

Outstanding Achievement Award

Walter Saravia

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Bridget Guardia

Bridget Guardia is a Marketing and International Business major with an Event Planning minor. Bridget studied abroad in France during the fall 2013 semester. She is a Bonner Scholar, served as an Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) Peer Counselor for the summer 2012 program, and as a Peer Mentor with the Dean of Freshmen's Office for the 2012-2013 school year. Bridget is a member of the Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society, the Leadership Development Program, and a chairperson for Relay for Life. She has worked as a Resident Advisor and completed two internship programs in New York City. Bridget is a true example of the spirit and intent of the Educational Opportunity Program.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rider University</i> <i>Westminster Choir College</i></p>

***1 award recipient in total**

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ashante Taylorcox

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Ashante Taylorcox

Ashante Taylorcox hails from Piscataway and is a graduate of Piscataway High School. She will graduate in May 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. In addition to being a strong student, Ashante has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills by singlehandedly enlightening an entire campus about the horror of human trafficking and developing ways of healing survivors through music. After graduation, Ashante plans to continue her work in this area by working with a non-profit organization fighting against human trafficking, with the goal of developing her own organization based on using music as a healing mechanism.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rowan University</i> <i>Camden Campus</i></p>

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Aleida Duran

Yanelis Fernandez
Euver Joaquin-Castillo
Duc H. Nguyen
Khoa D. Vu

Academic Achievement Award

Yelitza Nunez
Capree D. Williams

Outstanding Achievement Award

Vanessa L. Cruz

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Euver Joaquin-Castillo

Euver Joaquin-Castillo was born in the Dominican Republic. At the age of fifteen he abandoned a traditional high school education to join one of the most competitive technical high schools in his country of origin, the Loyola Polytechnic Institute. In 2009, he immigrated to the United States and shortly after was admitted to Rowan University's ESL and EOF programs. Euver will graduate in spring 2014 with a Bachelor of Science degree, Mechanical Engineering major.

During his undergraduate career, Euver has been involved with research activities in the states of New Jersey, Delaware and Michigan through the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience and with "Engineers without Borders" in a project focused on providing water access for the community of Valle Verde Santiago, Dominican Republic. He has also been an active member and president of RUCASA (Rowan University at Camden Alliance of Students Activities), Tau Beta Pi Epsilon Engineering Honor Society, various peer mentoring programs, and the inaugural class of MIT's Online Learning Platform, 6002X - completing the course within the top 5% of all students. He has received honors and awards including the NSF STEM Scholarship, American Honda Motor Company Scholarship, Martin Luther King Memorial Scholarship, Force Retirees AFT Scholarship, Gwen Ashford Faison Scholarship, and the Broome Alumni Scholarship. He has been employed by the university as a tutor for Pre-calculus, Single Multivariable Calculus, and Classical Mechanics.

Euver has been named to the Dean's List each semester since his freshman year and currently holds a 3.97 GPA. His excellence in the field of Mechanical Engineering has been recognized by entities such as the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, and the Camden County Board of Freeholders. Euver will attend graduate school for a terminal degree in engineering with a focus on public policy and sustainable energy generation. He has

been accepted at both the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Mechanical Engineering Program and Pennsylvania State University's Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Program.

<p><i>Rowan University</i> <i>Glassboro Campus</i></p>
--

***11 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Brette Cox

Erica Nelms

Brittany Tattnall

Tierra Fisher

Naquan Redd

Calvin Martin

Jaimie Stone

Academic Achievement Award

Jaried Kimberley

Katrina McCullough

Diamond Williams

Outstanding Achievement Award

Suliamann Abdullah

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Brittany Tattnall

Brittany Tattnall is from Trenton and a 2010 graduate of Trenton Central High School. Now graduating from Rowan University, she will obtain her bachelor's degree with a journalism major and marketing minor, Chambers Campus. Coming from a single-parent home, Brittany's mother instilled in her the importance of pursuing a college education. The EOF program gave Brittany the opportunity to become the first person in her family to attend, and now graduate, college.

She received Dean's List honors in fall 2012, spring 2013 and fall 2013 and is a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Association Honor Society. Brittany is a tutor at the University Writing Center, a copy editor and staff writer for Rowan University's student newspaper, - "The Whit", and lead student secretary in the Dean's Office of the College of Communication & Creative Arts. She also volunteers to speak with students at her high school and middle school alma maters, where she serves as a mentor.

Most recently, Brittany was chosen to be one of the faces of the #RowanPROUD campaign and can now be seen on Rowan University's homepage.

Brittany will graduate cum laude in May 2014. She has plans to pursue her MBA with a specialization in marketing and is interested in attending New York University's Stern School of Business.

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey Camden

***16 award recipients in total**

Distinguished Scholar

Courtney Louis

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Sydney Giancomucci

Shanique Martin

Angelica Santiago

Christine Hawkins

Cendy Rodriguez

Nahtonya Thompson

Samuel Kaslon

Rasheeda Roundtree

Andrea N. Thompson

Academic Achievement Award

Margaret Brown

Marcia Manire-Tucker

Stephanie Vilar

Leiby A. Gonzalez

Ilia Napoleon

Rodriguez

Dermont Tibbs

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Margaret Brown

Margaret entered the EOF program in summer 2000. Her initial transition to Rutgers Camden was not easy. In fall 2000 she left Rutgers and did not return until spring 2012 as a transfer student from a community college. During that period of time, she had become a single mother of two beautiful little girls. Margaret came back an entirely new person. She had gained maturity and immediately showed signs of being a strong student. Margaret is a non-traditional student. She is the head of her household and the family structure put considerable pressure on Margaret's commitment to her studies. In spite of a documented disability, Margaret has done extremely well. Her GPA is a testament of her dedication to complete her degree. Margaret is intelligent and adaptable. She is very focused and dependable. Whatever she sets her mind on, she accomplishes. Whatever she does not comprehend, she is not shy to ask for help. Whatever

advice or guidance she receives, she follows very strategically. She is truly a model student who is highly respected by both her professors and peers. She has consistently received many rave reviews about her ability to produce excellent academic work. She has considerable leadership qualities, is reliable, integral, and genuine - not self-promoting. Margaret has the potential to excel in the most strenuous academic challenges. She has been accepted to the Social Work Advance Standing program at Rutgers Camden and will begin immediately after graduation. This is a very competitive master's program. There is no doubt that Margaret will complete her educational goals and become a prominent member of society.

***Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Newark College of Arts and Sciences***

***60 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Yolanda Aguilera	Syed Hassan	Krasti Quach
Askira Bailey	Amir Ismail	Idris Rahman
Shanique Bernal	Nataliya Ivanchuk	Ariana Rivera
Anthony Cillaroto	Dency Kundra	Neel Shah
Debra DeCosta	Dana Migliaccio	Eldon Thomas
Jessica Dutan	Shanee Murdaugh	Cynthia Trujillo
Michael Flores	Rosalyn Payne	Tayiba Yasin
Jessica Gonzalez	Olga Pidkaminna	

Academic Achievement Award

Iesha Crandon	Gehan Mahmoud	Stephanie Vallejo
Jonathan Flowers	Ali Naqvi	Ashlee Wright
Puja Gandhi	Jay Patel	Iwona Zarzecka
Lauraine Jondoh	Nehal Patel	
Jenna Maharem	Marcy Rosa	

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Dana Migliaccio

Dana Migliaccio resides in Montclair and transferred to Rutgers University - Newark as a Social Work major from Essex County College in the fall semester of 2012. She embraced EOF with enthusiasm and exemplified pride in being a part of the program. She sincerely appreciated the support she received while pursuing her undergraduate degree. Dana worked full-time while she

was full-time enrolled, carrying 15 credits with a current 3.860 GPA. In addition to interning at Newark's Integrity House, she lovingly cared for her three children as a single-parent. She is the president of the Newark College of Arts and Sciences Social Work Student Organization and was recently awarded an undergraduate research fellowship performing literature review, secondary coding as well as co-authoring a scholarly article to be submitted for publication this semester. Dana plans on pursuing graduate level education in Social Work and seeking employment within the field of Criminal Justice.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey</i> <i>Newark - College of Nursing</i></p>
--

***7 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Lisa Giacomazzo

Theresa Huynh

Academic Achievement Award

Adrianna Harulaj

Virgen Negron

Diane Ramruch

Karina Rae Sabas

Outstanding Achievement Award

Shamirah Tucker

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Shamirah Tucker

Shamirah Tucker was born and raised in the City of Newark as the eldest of six children. She attended Technology High School in Newark where she graduated as the valedictorian of her class. While in high school, Shamirah learned to face adversity head on which she feels contributed to the person she is today. During her tenure at Rutgers University - College of Nursing, she was chosen to receive the M.C.J. Amelior Scholarship which made it possible for her to live on campus. Additionally, she received the Northern New Jersey Black Nurses Association Scholarship and maintains membership with the association. Despite tackling the challenging nursing curriculum, Shamirah managed to also work full-time throughout her four years of college to support her family. She describes herself as strong, loving, determined and

tenacious. Shamirah is grateful for the Educational Opportunity Fund program that provided her with the support necessary to succeed in her major and graduate as “a distinguished Rutgers Nurse.” As a way of thanks, in return Shamirah will offer inspiration to young adults starting out in college like she did. She hopes to offer her own story as an example that it is possible to fulfill your educational dreams while still juggling life’s trials and tribulations as they arise.

***Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick - School of Arts and Sciences***

***105 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Rowaida Abdelaziz	Dennis Friend	Stefania Meza
Agarwal Sonal	Margaret Frimpong	Elizabeth Monaghan
Teresa Alston	Jheysson Garcia	Bhaie Mustafa
Tamika Baldwin	Gina Giacobbe	Hoai Thuon Nguyen
Virginia Cabrera	Shanee Grant	Sheyla Ojeda
Mark Caravaglia	Kelly Guerrero	Dipisha Patel
Jorge Casalins	Sam Hong	Gina Pearson
Naima Chowdhury	Yesenia Infante	Quratulain Sayyed
Rafelina Contreras	Danny Huynh	Nadia Schuman
Catherine Cordova	Phu Huynh	Disha Shah
Kevin Dahaghi	Candice James	Ka-Lisha Simons
Ludine Daux	Francheska Jimenez	Precious Tabansi
Mohamed Elagami	Carrie Lineman	Tyanna Wiggins
Stephanie Flores	Jonathan Long	

Academic Achievement Award

Rakesh Bhisham	Maria Han	Estefani Restrepo
Lanette Biggs	Marina Ibrahim	Bryan Seifert
Jasmine Bryant	Jamal Kassim	June Thai
Daiara Caceres	Oscar Kosecki	Suleica Urena
Bang Chau	Michelle Lee	Samantha Vidal
Kathleen Cruz	Tito Mantilla	Christopher West
Frantz Fleurissaint	Shanice Mars	Delilah White
Tiffany Gonzalez	Fathima Munaff	Jason Yang
Lindsey Greene	Johanna Nahrwold	
Jacqueline Halliday	Jasmine Parchment	

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Nadia Schuman

Nadia Schuman was born in Plainfield and currently resides in Piscataway. She graduated from Dunellen High School in 1997 and will graduate from Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences with a double major in Psychology Honors (3.625) and German Studies: Literature focus; Certificate of Proficiency (3.929), a cumulative GPA of 3.612. Nadia is a non-traditional, single mother of a 13-year-old child who has been diagnosed with three clinical mental health disorders. Although she comes from a background of familial poverty and addiction, and endured abuse and dysfunction, she was able to transcend these issues. Nadia has balanced between fifteen and nineteen credits per semester, raised her son, and worked up to three jobs, all while maintaining a GPA of no less than 3.6. She has academic accolades, a fantastic record of performance, as well as published research experience.

Her goal after completion of her baccalaureate degree is to enroll in a Ph.D. program in behavioral neuroscience, psychology, or psychobiology of addiction. She has been fortunate enough to be a survivor and an overcomer, and her experiences have influenced her research topic and career path. She intends to spend her life researching pathological human conditions, and is committed to discovering methods of treating these conditions to help those who are ill. In addition, she aspires to become a writer, exploring the very conditions which she will research beyond the scope of current science.

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey New Brunswick - School of Engineering

***8 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Gurneet Sangha

Academic Achievement Award

Sheng Li

Erick Morais

Manthan Patel

Parth Patel

Outstanding Achievement Award

David Tran

***Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick - School of Environmental and
Biological Sciences***

***12 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Avani V. Comer

Academic Achievement Award

Donia Abdalla

Anari Gordon

Burha Manzoor

Nathalie Garcia

Nilsa Jenkins Luna

Beatrice C. Nettles

Outstanding Achievement Award

Nina O. Odunlami

***Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick - Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy***

***9 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Francesco Cuimmo

Karen Gomez

Pushpinder Kaur

Irene Mac

Shalin Patel

Academic Achievement Award

Sokserey Eang

Amjad Saeed

Loura Said

Alexandrea Semidey

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Amjad Saeed

Amjad Saeed is from Jersey City and graduated from William Dickinson High School. In addition to being on the Dean's List for several semesters, she was inducted into the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society. Amjad has also been involved in numerous organizations and campus-wide initiatives. She served as a resident assistant for four years, a graduate mentor for women pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics majors, Youth Committee Leader for the Jersey City Sudanese Association, and Co-Founder and Treasurer for the Shalom/Salaam Initiative. Her involvement with Shalom/Salaam Initiative was featured in Project Civility, a series of Rutgers community-wide collaborations aimed at producing a campus culture of respect and alliance. Amjad was also involved with the Douglass Project for Women in STEM, Operation Healthy Heart and Project SUPER, and a member of the Student National Pharmaceutical Association (SNPhA), the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP), and the Rutgers Muslim Student Association.

Amjad has also been very involved with the Office for Student Development/EOF Program at Pharmacy. She has consistently represented the program at the EOF Open House and has been an active participant in the EOF Budget Advocacy Campaign. Every year she has assisted in the Pharmacy Overnight Program, a high school outreach program designed to mentor prospective high school students interested in the pharmacy profession. She has also tutored students in pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemistry, and cardio-pulmonary therapeutics. Amjad aspires to define and further advance the role of a public health pharmacist. Her interest in this area is driven by her passion for the well-being of others and strong desire to enhance health care access for communities, both locally and globally.

***Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
New Brunswick - School of Health Related Professions***

***3 award recipients in total**

Academic Achievement Award

Radhika Patel
Neepaben Patel
Yina Lopez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Radhika Patel

Radhika was born and raised in India and when the opportunity presented itself in 2009, she came to the United States and moved to Old Bridge. She graduated in January 2014 from the SHRP Dental Hygiene associate's degree program at Rutgers University – School of Health Related Professions. Along with attending college, Radhika has served her community through different community service activities. She believes that “if we are lucky and healthy enough to help someone in need, then we should try our best to do so.” Radhika stated that she will always be thankful to the SHRP Dental Hygiene faculty and staff for their continued support that helped her to succeed in the program. Radhika would like to find employment in her field with a growing firm or organization.

Saint Peter's College

***3 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Antoinette Allen

Academic Achievement Award

Rosanna Hernandez

Bilal Siddiqui

Salem Community College

***6 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Erin Steffier

Heather Till

Academic Achievement Award

Sonia Bermudez

Diondra Ellis

Alexis Holmes

Outstanding Achievement Award

Shanell Villalongo

Seton Hall University

***18 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Tikida Adams
Laura Amilcar
Sem Etienne
Matthew Ullrich
Stephanie Vargas

Academic Achievement Award

Christian Aragon	Shamir Goicochea	Darwin Osais
Tanasha Driver	Jasmine Gomez	Nisairy Romero
Jasmine Eugene	Jerry Holley	Fernando Torres

Outstanding Achievement Award

Sharonn Dinkins

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Tikida Adams

Tikida Adams was born and raised in Newark. Since the age of 5, her grandmother served as the family's primary caretaker. Tikida was enrolled in both public and private Catholic schools in Newark. She graduated from Saint Vincent's Academy in 2010 and will soon graduate from Seton Hall University with the class of 2014. Tikida entered Seton Hall University through the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Throughout her four years within the program, she feels very fortunate to have been the recipient of EOP's academic, financial, and personal support. She has earned several academic honors during her undergraduate study, including being placed on the Dean's list at both the School of Arts & Sciences and the Stillman School of Business. She was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Epsilon Omega Psi Honor Society, and the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Tikida hopes to be employed in "Corporate America" within three years and will attend graduate school to obtain additional work experience. She is a role model in leadership for those coming from backgrounds similar to her own. She recommends to other students that they should continue to strive for excellence by living a life that is not only beneficial to oneself, but a life that positively impacts and creates meaningful differences throughout the world.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Seton Hall University</i> <i>PreMedical/PreDental Plus Program</i></p>
--

***2 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Leandro Gutierrez

Academic Achievement Award

Jalisa Smith

Outstanding Achievement Award

Leandro Gutierrez

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Leandro Gutierrez

Leandro Gutierrez is a graduating fifth year senior at Seton Hall University. Throughout his five years at the university, he has majored in Chemistry and minored in Physics, and Mathematics. A proud graduate of Union High School, Leandro spent most of his life as a resident of the township. His goal is to pursue a career in medicine. As an undergraduate student he has also been involved in research projects focusing on measuring the efficiency of constructed organic based photovoltaic cells. He has presented on the topic at numerous events including, the American Physics Society (twice), the New Jersey NASA Consortium, and at Seton Hall University. He was awarded the New Jersey NASA Consortium Research grant. With a strong interest to learn and help others, Leandro is thankful for the opportunity to have been selected to be a part of Seton Hall's Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Plus Program. Through the program, he says he has been able to gain the guidance, support, and assistance needed to make his academic dreams become a reality.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Stevens Institute of Technology</i></p>
--

***8 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Denis Barberena

Celiano Portero

Academic Achievement Award

Stefannye Barragan

Steven J. Berrio

Ashley Medina

Victor Osorio

Ruby A. Romero

Outstanding Achievement Award

Eliseo Tepox

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Victor Osorio

Victor Osorio was born in Salcajá, Guatemala. At the age of five, his family decided to move to the United States. Despite the need to overcome many obstacles in his life, he was able to graduate with a 4.167 GPA from Hamilton High School. His love for math and science led him to attend Stevens Institute of Technology and pursue a degree in engineering.

In his first year, Victor served as the historian chair for the Latin American Association (LAA). His hard work and dedication became apparent and one year later he was elected as the association's president. After a successful year, Victor became the vice president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) – Stevens' chapter. Currently, Victor serves as the president of Chi Alpha Epsilon (XAE) Honor Society at Stevens and has contributed to recruiting one of the largest inductee classes in Stevens' history. Victor will be graduating in May of 2014 with a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering and is currently pursuing his master's degree in Mechanical Engineering. At the beginning of his junior year, he received a full time offer from L'Oreal USA after his excellent performance there as an intern. He has officially accepted the offer with L'Oreal USA and will be moving to North Little Rock, Arkansas after graduation.

Union County College

***17 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Marsha Armstrong

Jeanette Colombani

Kristine Guzman

Yarimar Lugo

Yasmin McLeod

Brianna Pirro

Kevin Quizhpi

David Vasquez

Academic Achievement Award

Silvia Cuesta

Esthephanie Peralta

Ysatis Santana

Outstanding Achievement Award

Shadiqua Hall

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Marsha Armstrong

Marsha Armstrong is graduating from Union County College in the spring of 2014 with an Associate of Arts degree. Her academic major is sociology and she has a cumulative GPA of 3.80. Marsha currently lives in Roselle and graduated from Abraham Clark High School. At Union County College, she has been inducted into several honor societies: Phi Theta Kappa, Psi Beta and Chi Alpha Epsilon. Marsha is currently the president of the EOF Women's Leadership Group and Vice President of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa. After graduating from UCC, she plans to attend Georgia State University on a full academic scholarship where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in sociology. Ultimately, Marsha intends to continue her studies in a doctoral program and eventually open a transitional home for at risk youth from urban areas.

<p><i>Warren County Community College</i></p>
--

***3 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Samara Richards

Erica Williams

Outstanding Achievement Award

Erica Williams

Graduate Achievement Award Spotlight

Erica Williams

Erica Williams was born and raised in the small town of Alpha. In 2012, she graduated from Phillipsburg High School undecided about her career path. Erica decided to attend Warren County Community College to explore her options and feels fortunate that she was asked to apply for the EOF program and was accepted. Through EOF she made many new acquaintances and became involved on campus. She is currently the EOF Club president, a member of PTK, a peer mentor and named to the Collegiate Scholars List for spring 2013. Upon graduating in May, Erica plans to attend Montclair State University to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology and continue on for a master's in counseling. Her goal is to become a trauma and addiction counselor/specialist. Erica is also considering entering a master's program in business administration/management. Her dream is to open her own rehabilitation center for people affected by trauma, addiction, depression and eating disorders, and for veterans affected by PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). She has always known that she wanted a career that would allow her to help others. She is extremely happy with her educational decisions thus far and anxious to learn what the future holds for her.

<i>William Paterson University of New Jersey</i>

***8 award recipients in total**

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

Estefani Beco

Dennisse Chiquito

Marilyn DeFalco

Silvana Lopez

Essence Reed-Williams

Academic Achievement Award

Caylon Long

Carolina Ocampo

Outstanding Achievement Award

Ruben Guichardo